was no appreciable increase in the number of patients, whereas the expenditure on medicine has gone up by 50 per cent. Will the Government be pleased to give the information as to what the increase of expenditure in the Jail Hospital is due to?

Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.—The annual indent for the year 1101 was an exceptionally short one as evidenced by the figures for cost of medicines when compared with the cost of the previous year. So all supply was exhausted before the close of the year, and when the Civil Surgeon sent his indent again, he put in a demand for a greater supply, stating that in the previous year he had to purchase medicines locally on account of the early exhaustion of the annual supply, and consequently, for the first time in the account, medicines such as quinine, epsom salt, glycerine, castor oil, etc., which used to be bought separately, were entered under this head. Since then, the system of getting the Jail Department to pay the cost of medicines has ceased. This was not included in the accounts of the previous years. I came to find it out, and I said that these amounts also should be included in the accounts of the department. So that also was included for the first time in the accounts of 1101. These are the reasons which contribute to the increase in expenditure.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—Will the Government be pleased to say how much increase there was under this particular head?

Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.—I want notice.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—Is the increase in expenditure due to any increase in prices?

Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.—No, Sir.

The Conference of Registrars.

483. Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(a) whether there was any conference of Registrars in Cochin;

(b) if so, whether the conference is being held at present;

(c) if not, when it was discontinued; and

(d) why?

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—

(a) Yes. In 1099.

(b) No.

(c) In 1100.

(d) The necessity for it was not felt afterwards.

The Co-operative Society Bank, Irinjalakkuda.

484. Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—Will the Government be pleased to state;—

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(a) whether there is any rule that office bearers of a Co-operative Society or a Bank should not be proprietors or Directors or Manager of a private Bank ;

(b) is there any Co-operative Society at Irinjalakkuda whose office bearers do conduct Banks of their own ; if so, what action has been taken by the Government regarding the same ;

(c) whether there were any complaints regarding the same, and what action has the Government taken ?

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—(a) No.

(b) Four of the 11 committee members of the Irinjalakkuda Town Co-operative Bank Ltd., are also Directors of a private Bank. The latter part of the question does not call for an answer in view of the reply to part (a).

(c) Yes. The petitions have been referred to the committee for being placed before the General body for consideration. That body met on 29th Kumbham, but nothing came out of it. It is proposed to summon another meeting on 21st Meenam 1102.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—May I know when that meeting took place ?

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—There is no information. Reports have not been received.

Heads of Departments as Chiarmen or Directors of Banks.

485. Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—(a) In answer to question No. 135 of last Vrischigam session I was asked to refer to Standing Order No. 57. Will the Government be pleased to state whether any Heads of Departments have acted against the S. O. during the last two years ;

(b) whether Dr. Verghese, Chief Medical and Sanitary Officer, is a Director or a promoter of any limited concern ?

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—(a) No.

(b) Yes, he is a Director of the Cochin Electric Company.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—May I know whether the Government have got any information that Dr. Verghese is the Director of many limited companies in Travancore ?

President.—He may be the Director of many limited companies.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—Does not Standing Order 57 prohibit him from taking any part in the management of limited companies ;

President.—The rule is in force only in the Cochin State.

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